

HEURNIUS AND HERMANN, THE EARLIEST KNOWN PLANT COLLECTORS AT THE CAPE:

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II. PAUL HERMANN

In 1672, nearly fifty years after HEURNIUS' visit, PAUL HERMANN or HERMANNUS, who was later to become a professor of botany at Leyden University and one of the greatest botanists of his century, followed in HEURNIUS' footsteps by collecting plants on the Cape Peninsula.

One of the best biographies of HERMANN, in which he is paid full tribute for his outstanding achievements as a botanist, we owe to LINNAEUS, who published an extensive biographical account, containing an enumeration of Cape plants, in his *Flora Zeylanica*,²⁰ which is partly quoted here.

²⁰ LINNAEUS, *Flora Zeylanica* (1747), pp. 11–16. Original Latin text: "Hermannus (Paulus) nascitur Halae saxonum 1640. d. 30 Junii in augmentum Rei Herbariae. Plantarum amor in tenello cum lacte ita accenditur, ut puer decennis plantas lecturus in aquis incidens paene suffocatus fuisset, nisi Fata eum ad majores transfretandus aquas destinassent. Vitae genus selecturo Disciplina Medica, ob auctam cum amabili Botanica affinitatem, sese prae aliis commendat; ob hanc nocturna diurnaue manu cultam *Honores Doctorales* Paduae 1670 reportat.

"*Epocha Botanices* felicissima existerat circa annum 1671 cum in Europa magno numero Botanici doctissimi, curiosissimi, et laborissimi uno eodemque tempore florebant; Ex his fuere Mentzelius 65, . . . Muntingius 50, . . . Rudbeckius 47, . . . Breynius 40, . . . Seyenus 37, . . . Tournefortius 21. Qui Viri! quanta nomina! Hi conjunctis viribus infinitaque diligentia plures detegebant rariores & indicas, quam omnes ante eos vixerunt Botanici . . . Ducitur itaque mox a Syeno Hermannus ad *Bentingium*, Florae Senatorum, Virum honoribus & dignitatibus spectabilem, qui Hermannum Commendabat apud Gubernatores Societatis Indiae orientalis per Zeylonam praeficerent, spe non frustranea ductus, fore si ad Zeylonam perveniret, tantus Botanicus, grata ipsius mens quotannis selecta semina, radices, bulbos, plantas ad benefactores remittet; nec spes fefellit. Hermannus mox denominatur *Medicus* ordinarius & primarius per Zeylonam.

"Postquam fata sic vela panderant, navem conscendit Hermannus. In transitu vero, in ultimum Africae *Caput b. Spei* ascendit; hanc terram nullus Botanicorum unquam antea calcaverat. O bone Deus quam multae, quam rae & quam mirabiles plantae, uno eodemque die, se Hermannus oculis offerunt. Paucis diebus solus & unicus Hermannus hic plures detegit novas plantas Africanas, quam Botanici omnes, qui unquam in mundo ante eum extiterent. Montes rupesque tegebantur succulentis *Mesembryanthemis*, *Aloeus*, *Stapeliis*, *Kleiniiis*, *Crassulis*, *Bulbinis*, *Anacampserotibus*, *Tetragonis*, *Aizois*. Nemora a *Proteis* & *Leucadendris* argento auroque nitebant. Campe vestiebantur *Borboniis*, *Penaeis*, *Blaeriis* & *Ericis* infinite ludentibus. Viae opertae erant mellifluis *Melianthis*. Sylvas & Dumeta con-

HERMANN was born at Halle in Saxony on June 30, 1646—not 1640, as stated by LINNAEUS and other authors—"to the benefit of Botany. A love of plants was aroused in the child from a very early age. But [one day] as a boy of only ten years old he set out to collect plants, and fell in the water and would have been drowned, had not the Fates destined him to traverse much greater waters. When he was about to decide on a career, the Science of Medicine, because of its close affinity to his beloved Botany, appealed to him more than any other, and having pursued this Science by day and night, he obtained his degree as a doctor of medicine at Padua in 1670.

"The year 1671 was a most productive period for Botany, since in Europe there flourished in great numbers at one and the same time many highly learned, interested and industrious botanists. Among these were Mentzel,²¹ Munting,²²

stituebant *Sideroxylo*, *Royenae*, *Hermanniae*, *Halleriae*, *Maurocenae*, *Grewiae*, *Clutiae*, *Cliffortiae*, *Brunniae* [*Bruniae*], *Galeniae*, *Brabeja*, *Myrsines*, *Philycae* [*Phylicae*], *Celastris*, *Passerinae*, *Trachonanthis*, *Baccharides*, *Eriocephali*, *Parthenia*, *Anthosperma*, *Myricae*, *Kiggelariae*. Prata vero vestiebant *Lobeliae*, *Ixiae*, *Corymbia*, *Arctopi*, *Roelliae*, *Zygophyllae*, *Gethyllides*, *Selagines*, *Hebenstretiae* [*Hebenstreitiae*], *Stoebes*, *Gerberiae* [*Gerberae*], *Haemanthi* & *Gerania* miro modo diversa. Inde misit Hermannus in Florae castra plures novas plantas quam antea illis, quibus adhuc superbiunt Horti Europaei. Hinc famam sempiternam sibi comparavit summus Inventor . . .

"Sic collecto Herbario Zeylanico perfectissimo, compingi curat plantas Zeylanicas in *Tria* volumina: in *Quarto* vero Africanas & rariores Zeylanicas miscet; . . .

"Cum jam merita & laudes Hermanni in tota Europa omnium Curiosorum ore extollerentur, moritur 1678 *Arnoldus Syenus*, Professor Botanices Leydensis. Non erat in orbe alter meritis & inventis Botanices Hermannio par, ideoque a Curatoribus Academiae mox creatur Hermannus Medicinae & Botanices Professor *Lugduno-Batavi*. Cum vero biennii fere spatio opus esset Hermannio antequam redire & officio fungi posset, constituerunt Curatores 1679 *Petrum Hottonem* Professorem Botanices usque tantum in id tempus, quo noster ex India redux se sisteret Lugduni, quod feliciter 1680, mense Augusti contigit. Adgreditur mox oblatum munus; Horti *pomeria* producit; plantas duplo plures in hortum introducit quam omnes ejus predecessores . . . ; *Museum* a se ipso collectum in horto instruit; sub feriis nunc Galliam, nunc Britanniam, nunc Germaniam plantarum causa adit. Parisiis in Horto Regio Salientes fontes, ad accessum *Principis Botanicorum* scaturiunt jubente Tournefortio. Orbis litteratus desideratissimas diu Plantas Zeylanicas sibi pollicetur, sed Lectiones publicae & privatae, negotia Academica, Consultationes studiosorum, & Horti cura horas surripiunt, usque diem fatalis *Peripneumonia* Clarissimum Hermannum suffocant die 28. Januarii 1695".

²¹ CHRISTIAN MENTZEL (1622–1701), born at Fürstenwalde (Germany) and died in Berlin, was counsellor and physician to the Elector of Brandenburg. He took an interest in botany and became the author of the following works: *Centuria plantarum circa nobile Gedanum sponte nascentium* (Dantisci, 1650). *Index nominum plantarum universalis multilinguis, Latinarum, Graecorum et Germanorum* . . . (1682). A re-impression of the latter work entitled *Lexicon plantarum polyglotton universale* . . . (Berlin, 1696).

²² ABRAHAM MUNTING or MUNTINGIUS (1626–1683), a physician and botanist of Groningen (Holland), was director of the "Hortus Botanicus Groninganus" from 1658–1683. He is the author of three botanical works, of which his publication on Aloes may be mentioned here. It is entitled *Aloidarium, sive Aloes mucronato folio americanae majoris*. Aliarumque ejusdem speciei *Historia* (Amsterdam, 1680): in this work he is styled "Medicinae Doctore, atque in Patria Academia Groninga & Omlandia Botanices Professore".

Rudbeck,²³ Breyné,²⁴ Syen,²⁵ Tournefort²⁶. What men! What great names! These men, with combined forces and boundless care discovered more rarities, including Indian plants, than all the botanists who had lived before them. Hermann was soon introduced by Syen to Benting,²⁷ a "Senator" of Flora, a man notable for his honours and distinctions, who subsequently recommended him to the Governors of the East India Company for appointment as a medical doctor for the whole of Ceylon, led by the not improbable hope that if such a botanist went to Ceylon, he might well show his gratitude by sending from time to time selected seeds, roots, bulbs and plants to his benefactors. This expectation was duly fulfilled. Hermann was soon appointed ordinary and chief medical officer for the whole of Ceylon.

"After the Fates had thus unfurled the sails, Hermann embarked [in 1672]. During the voyage he disembarked on the extreme tip of Africa, the *Cape of*

²³ OLAF RUDBECK (1630–1702), a Swede, was professor of medicine and anatomy at Uppsala from 1658–1693, when he resigned his professorship and was succeeded by his son Olaf Rudbeck the younger. He also showed an interest in botany: he has left a botanical work in two volumes, of which vol. II appeared first, viz. *Campi Elysii liber secundus* (qui Iridum, Narcissorum, Hyacinthorum, Tuliparum, Liliorum, Crocorum, atque alias ex bulborum genere figuras justa magnitudine expressas habet) opera Olai Rudbeck patris et filii editus (1701). Vol. I was published in 1702: *Campi Elysii liber primus* . . . Cyperacearum, Graminum et Juncacearum. Copies of the second and the printing and production of the first volume together with thousands of woodcuts were destroyed when Uppsala was devastated by a fire in May 1702. A few copies of the second volume came from the press before the fire and having been sent abroad were preserved.

His name is commemorated in the N. American genus *Rudbeckia*, L. (Compositae).

²⁴ JAKOB BREYNÉ or BREYNIUS (1637–1697), a wealthy merchant of Dantzic (Gedani), Germany, was known for his interest in natural history. He is the author of a few botanical works of which *Jacobi Breynii Gedanensis Exoticarum aliarumque minus cognitarum Plantarum Centuria prima* (Gedani, 1678) is the most outstanding. It gives descriptions of no less than 48 well-marked Cape plants.

²⁵ ARNOLD SYEN was born at Amsterdam in 1640. He studied medicine at Leyden University, where he obtained his M.D. in 1659. He took up medical practice at the town of Gouda, where he established his botanical garden. On February 8, 1670, he was called to the chair of medicine at Leyden University, and was offered the position of Praefectus Horti on a salary of 1,000 guilders a year, of which he would obtain 400 guilders as an actual salary, 300 for his foreign correspondence and the rest in the form of a free house, which was supposed to be worth 300 guilders in rent. His official appointment dates from June 2, 1670. He died in 1678.

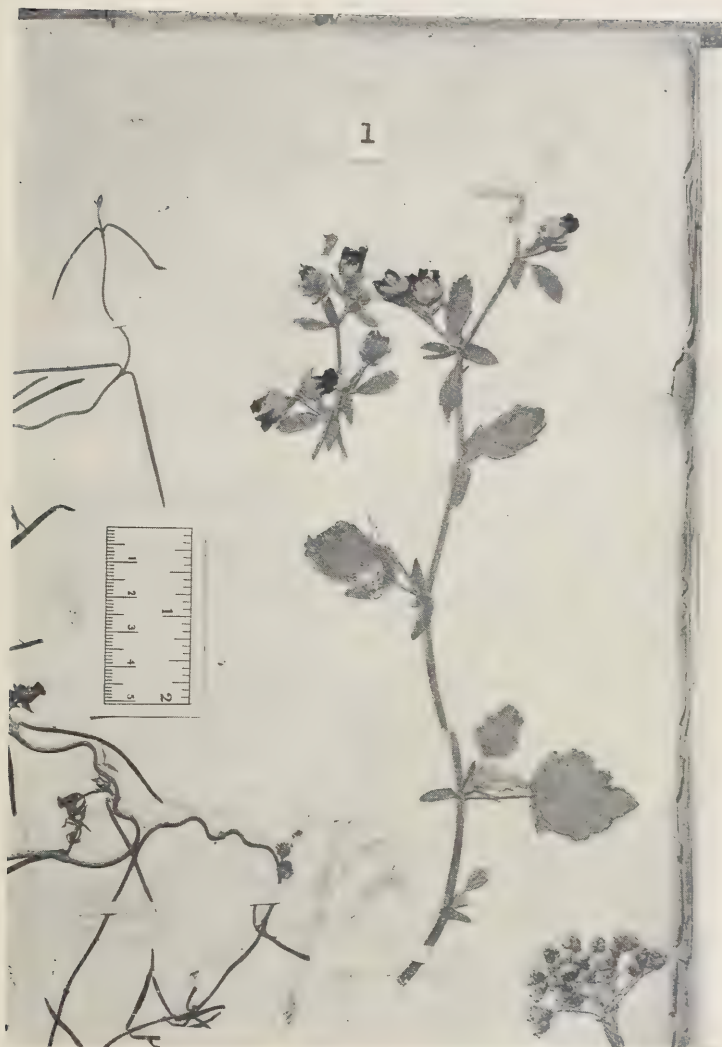
²⁶ J. PITTON DE TOURNEFORT (1656–1708), a famous French botanist. He became a professor of botany in Paris at the early age of 21. For further details see this Journal, Vol. XXIII, April, 1957, "Sparman as a Correspondent", p. 57, footnote 20.

²⁷ HANS WILLEM BARON BENTINCK or WILLIAM BENTINCK (1649–1709) entered the service of Prince WILLEM III, Stadtholder of Holland (later King WILLIAM III of England) as a page and later became his gentleman in waiting. In 1670 he accompanied the Prince on a journey to England. In 1689 BENTINCK was raised to the peerage with the titles Baron of Cirencester, "Markgraf" of Woodstock and Count of Portland. In 1696 he received the Order of the Garter. In 1698 he was appointed ambassador to France. After the death of King WILLIAM III he lived at his country seat "Zorgvliet" near The Hague, a present from the King, or on his English estates.

Good Hope: that land which no botanist ever before had trod. Oh Lord! How many, how rare and how wonderful were the plants that on this very day presented themselves to Hermann's eyes! In a few days Hermann alone and by himself discovered here more African plants than all botanists who ever before him had made their appearance in the world. Mountains and slopes were covered with succulents: species of *Mesembryanthemum*, *Aloe*, *Stapelia*, *Kleinia*, *Crassula*, *Bulbine*, *Anacampseros*, *Tetragonia*, *Aizoon*. *Protea* and *Leucadendron* spp. made the woodlands shine with silver and gold. Fields were covered with *Borbonia*, *Penaea*, *Blaeria* and *Erica* spp. in infinite variety. Roads were overgrown with honey-bearing *Melianthus* spp. *Sideroxylum*, *Royena*, *Hermannia*, *Halleria*, *Maurocenia*, *Grewia*, *Clutia*, *Cliffortia*, *Brunia*, *Galenia*, *Brabejum*, *Myrsine*, *Phylica*, *Celastrum*, *Passerina*, *Tarchonanthus*, *Baccharis*, *Eriocephalum*, *Parthenium*, *Anthospermum*, *Myrica*, *Kiggelaria* spp. formed woods and thickets. *Lobelia*, *Ixia*, *Corymbium*, *Arctopus*, *Roellia*, *Zygophyllum*, *Gethyllis*, *Selago*, *Hebenstreitia*, *Stoebe*, *Gerbera*, *Haemanthus*, and *Geranium* spp. in marvellous variety, clothed the open ground. From there Hermann sent to his Floral headquarters more new plants than any one before him, and to this very day the gardens of Europe are embellished by them. Thus did this eminent discoverer acquire eternal fame . . ."

LINNAEUS now proceeds to HERMANN's botanical achievements in Ceylon, at the end of which he says that HERMANN, after having collected a most perfect Herbarium of the plants of Ceylon, he had them bound in four volumes. The first three volumes are exclusively of Ceylon plants, in the fourth volume he combines African plants and the rarer ones from Ceylon.

After this LINNAEUS continues: "The merit and praises of Hermann were already sung in the whole of Europe by all interested people, when, in the year 1678, there occurred the death of Arnold Syen, Professor of Botany at Leyden. There was no other person in the world who equalled Hermann in merit and botanical discoveries, and consequently he was soon appointed by the Council of the University as Professor of Medicine and Botany at Leyden. However, Hermann needing a period of nearly two years before he could return [to Holland] to take up his post, the Council appointed Peter Hotton as Professor of Botany in 1679, until such time as our Hermann would be back from India and in a position to settle at Leyden, which fortunately took place in the month of August, 1680. He quickly took up his duties; fixed the boundaries of the University Garden, introduced twice as many plants in the garden as all his predecessors [together] . . ., revised the *Materia Medica*, established a Museum in the garden [for specimens] collected by himself. During holidays he visited France, Britain and Germany for the sake of plants. In Paris, in the Royal Botanical Garden the fountains played at the approach of the *Prince of*



Folio 1: *Hermannia triphylla*, Cav., *Microloma tenuifolia*, K. Schum., and ?*Helichrysum*.
Vol. 75 of the Sloane Herbarium, British Museum (Natural History), London. By permission
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Botany, by order of Tournefort. The educated world promised itself the plants of Ceylon which for a long time had been eagerly awaited, but public and private lectures, Academic matters, consultations with learned people, and the care of the Botanical Garden took up his time until the day that a fatal *Peripneumonia* killed the distinguished Hermann on January 28, 1695". The date of HERMANN'S passing away as given by LINNAEUS is not quite correct. He actually died on January 29, 1695, according to the record in the "Acta Senatus" of January 29, which reads²⁸:—"The Grand Rector announced in the assembled Senate that the most distinguished Dr. Paul Herman had cast off mortality at five o'clock in the morning".

Moreover, in his *Flora Capensis*²⁹ LINNAEUS pays tribute to HERMANN in connection with his collecting at the Cape. "Hermann", quoting LINNEAUS, "was the first botanist who saw with his own eyes the plants of the Cape of Good Hope on his journey to the island of Ceylon. Here he collected about eight hundred plants, which at that time were entirely new, and of which he brought the various seeds and roots to Europe. The result was that already at that time in Holland the gardens of people interested in plants were beginning to be embellished by the wonders of nature. Of the same harvest were also those few plants, which *Th. Bartholinus*³⁰ mentions in the *Acta Hafniensia*,

²⁸ "Acta Senatus" of January 29, 1695 (Arch. Sen. Fac. 263, f. 114v-115r: "Rijksuniversiteit" (State University) at Leyden). Original Latin text: "Coacto Senatu significavit Magn. Rector, Clarissimum Virum D. Paulum Herman hora matutina quinta mortalitatem exuisse..."

²⁹ C. H. WÄNNMAN, *Flora Capensis* (1759), §4; republ. in LINNAEUS, *Amoenitates Academicae*, Vol. V, pp. 353-370 (1760): see this Journal, January, 1963, p. 29. HERMANN pp. 356-357.

Original Latin text: "Hermannus . . . primus fuit Botanicus, qui propriis oculis Capitis bonae spei plantas visitaret, sub itinere in Zeylonam insulam. Collegit hic octingentas circiter plantas, eo tempore plane novas, quarum varia semina & radices in Europam transmisit; quo factum, ut his naturae miraculis jam tum superbire inciperent horti in Hollandia curiosorum. Ejusdem messis fuere etiam paucae illae, quas *Th. Bartholinus* in *Actis Hafniensibus* Vol. II, p. 57 & 347 memorat. Non vero paucas capenses plantas Hermannus Horto Academico *Leidensi* intulit, quod satis superque constat ex hortu ejus Lugduno-Batavo, 1687 edito. Exstat praeterea egregii Hermanni brevis *Catalogus Plantarum Africanarum*, a Cl. Burmanno insertus appendici Thesauri zeylanici."

³⁰ THOMAS BARTHOLINUS (1616-1680), of Danish nationality, was professor of anatomy at Copenhagen. He studied classics at Copenhagen and travelled for 8 years through different European countries. He commenced his studies in medicine at the University at Leyden. He went to Paris, Montpellier and Padua, where he spent 3 years. He published mainly works on medicine and anatomy, but also showed an interest in botany. The *Acta Medica et Philosophica Hafniensia* (Hafnia) (=Copenhagen, (1671-79), in 4 volumes, was his last work. There is a fifth volume published by his son Caspar in 1680. In Vol. II (1673) of his work, pp. 57-58 and 347-348, he describes a number of Cape plants under the heading "Plantae Novae Africae", with 4 plates by OLIGERUS JACOBÆUS.

The endemic Cape genus *Bartholina* (Orchidaceae) was named after him by ROBERT BROWN.

Vol. II, pp. 57 and 347. And so it was not just a few plants only which Hermann introduced from the Cape to the University Garden at Leyden (a fact which is abundantly proved by his "Hortus Lugdunus-Batavus", published in 1687). Furthermore there exists a short catalogue of African plants from the hand of the excellent Hermann, inserted by the distinguished Burmann in an Appendix in his *Thesaurus Zeylanicus*". So far LINNEAUS.

Referring to BARTHOLINUS, he actually is the author of the first publication entirely devoted to Cape plants. In Vol. II (1673) of *Acta Hafniensia*, under the heading "Plantae Novae Africanae" he writes: "In 1673, Hieremias Stolle, a surgeon, during his return journey to Copenhagen from the East Indies, while calling at the Cape of Good Hope, received from Paul Hermann, doctor of medicine (who had formerly lived at Colombo in the island of Ceylon) various plants indigenous to the Cape of Good Hope. Of these plants, which had been dried and delivered to us, we give illustrations by the skilful hand of Oligerus Jacobaeus. So far as I know these plants have not been described or figured elsewhere, and this is in order to give others the opportunity of examining them."³¹

Among the plants depicted and described are "Erica African. umbellata flore purpureo" (= *E. cerinthoides*, L.) "Erica African. arborescens fl. carneo" (= *E. coccinea*, Berg.), "Thymbra Africana flore purpureo" (= *Muraltia heisteria*, DC.), "Canna Africana minor fl. suaverubente" (= *Anapalina burchellii*, N. E. Br. (syn. *Gladiolus lucidor*, Baker). These and other plants had been sent by HERMANN to BARTHOLINUS in 1672.

THUNBERG, in his Preface to his *Flora Capensis*,³² under the heading "Botanists and Collectors who themselves greeted this same Cape", writes about HERMANN that "he was the first Botanist to observe Cape plants diligently, and collected a noteworthy herbarium, although his stay was so short that he did not venture to wander beyond the settlement of the colonists".

ARNOLD SYEN, his predecessor, while still practising medicine at Gouda, had a celebrated and well furnished botanical garden which was visited by all connoisseurs, and because of which he stood in friendly relations with the most prominent people in the Batavian Republic, men like HIERONYMUS VAN BEVER-

³¹ Original Latin text: "A. 1673, ex Indiâ Orientali redux Hafniam Hieremias Stolle Chirurgus, in medio itinere, in Promontorio nempe bonae spei, à D. Paulo Hermanno Medico, qui alias in Insulae Ceilon urbe Columba habitat, accepit plantas quasdam ibidem in Capite bonae spei natas, quarum exsiccatarum nobisq; communicatarum hic icones damus, nitidâ Oligeri Jacobaei manu, quia alibi descriptas vel depictas non inveni, aliis inquirendi occasionem daturus".

³² C. P. THUNBERG, *Flora Capensis* (1823 ed. Schultes). Praefatio Auctoris, p. VII.



Folio 2: *Leonotus leonurus*, R. Br. and *Anapalina burchellii*, N. E. Br.
Vol. 75 of the Sloane Herbarium, British Museum (Natural History), London. By permission
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NINGH,³³ CASPAR FAGEL³⁴ and WILLEM BENTINCK, who themselves cultivated the rarest and most beautiful plants in their gardens. It was chiefly by the influence of VAN BEVERNINGH, at the instigation of SYEN (who had recommended him to H. A. VAN RHEEDE TOT DRAKENSTEIN, at the time Governor of the Dutch possessions in Malabar, as a botanist capable of investigating the flora of Ceylon), that HERMANN was charged with the task of visiting Africa, India and Ceylon at Government expense. HERMANN felt a great indebtedness to these two men, in recognition of which he sent them seeds, roots and bulbs every year. The greater part of these plants found their way to the academic gardens at Leyden which VAN BEVERNINGH took great interest in, especially after his appointment as a curator of the University in 1673. SYEN's death, five years later, was a great loss both to the University and the botanical garden.

On November 21, 1678, Curators and Burgomaster (i.e. the Leyden University Council) discussed the possibility of inviting HERMANN ("presently still employed by the East India Company in Ceylon") to succeed SYEN as professor of botany.³⁵ As a result the following letter was written to him by the Curators and Burgomaster and addressed to "Paulus Hermans op Ceylon". The letter, originally written in Latin, reads as follows³⁶: "Although you are very far from us, and though we are separated by a great part of the world,

³³ HIERONYMUS VAN BEVERNINGH (1614-1690) had been a constant protector of the Leyden University Garden of which he became a trustee and curator. After a successful career as a diplomat he spent his later years at his country place "Oud-Teilingen" at Sassenheim near Leyden. At this place he established a garden in which a valuable collection of plants was grown: his keen interest in plants made him well-known as an amateur-botanist.

For the above records see H. VEENDORP and L. G. M. BAAS BECKING, *Hortus Academicus Lugduno-Batavus 1587-1937* (1937), p. 88.

³⁴ CASPAR FAGEL (1633-1688), pensionary of Holland, was a great plant-lover. His country place "Leeuwenhorst" showed a wealth of rare plants and was visited several times by the famous director of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, J. PITTON DE TOURNEFORT. These records have been taken from VEENDORP and BAAS BECKING's work (see footnote 33), p. 88.

³⁵ "Paulus Hermans, tegenwoordigh nogh sijnde in employ van de Oostindische Compagnie op Cheylon" (orig. Dutch text), was actually called to the chair of professor of botany as successor to the late Professor SYEN: "Resoluties van Curatoren", 1678, 21 November, published in P. C. MOLHUYZEN, *Bronnen tot de Geschiedenis der Leidsche Universiteit*, Vol. III (1918), p. 340.

³⁶ "Resoluties van Curatoren", published in P. C. MOLHUYZEN, *Bronnen tot de Geschiedenis der Leidsche Universiteit*, Vol. III (1918), *Bijlagen* [Supplement], the above letter, *Res.* 863, pp. 263*-264*.

Original Latin text: "Longissime licet a nobis sis remotus, magnoque orbis spatio separemur, fama tamen profundissimae tuae eruditionis in rebus Botanicis et cognitione plantarum non tulit se uno duntaxat loco includi, verum illa felicissimo omine ad nos non ita pridem advolavit. Quare cum immiti nuperrime fato extinctus sit praestantissimus noster Arnoldus Seyen, Botanices dum viveret Professor, nihil nobis tanta sollicitudine cordi sit, quam ut ea provincia, qua praefatus D. Seyen aliique ipsius praedecessores tanta

yet the fame of your very deep erudition in Botanical matters and in the knowledge of plants has ensured that it should not be restricted to one place only, and that fame has by a most happy occurrence reached us not long ago.

"Therefore, as our excellent Arnold Seyen, Professor of Botany during his life, has very recently passed away by a cruel fate, we are most earnestly concerned that the post, which the aforementioned Doctor Seyen and others, his predecessors, have filled with such merit, earning them great praise from the learned, may now be filled by a worthy successor.

"Our attention has fallen on your abilities, distinguished Sir, and we have unanimously chosen you as the most suitable person to fill and honour this post.

"The salary for this post is one thousand guilders a year; further, a sufficiently spacious house will be allotted to you and your family rent free. Moreover, various emoluments go with this post, which you will very easily be able to obtain, partly out of private societies and institutions, partly out of promotions: and there are certain privileges and immunities, which Professors usually enjoy, and which add a little to the above. Perhaps these inducements are too slight to attract a man who spends his daily life amongst the luxuries of the East, but we have no such unworthy feelings as regard to your generous disposition. However, from the outstanding affection with which you embrace this study, we have formed the opinion that our hope will not be in vain. And further you will perhaps be moved by a longing for your fatherland, by which nearly all hearts, even the most steady ones, are drawn.

"And finally, if you should think yourself happier thereby, we promise you our love and goodwill in full measure and will show it.

"Farewell. Leyden. 21st November, 1678".

This is what HERMANN answered to the letter of the Curators and Burgo-master:³⁷ "I am filled with incredible joy, since I have perceived from your letter

cum laude, tantoque doctorum elogio functi sunt, dignum demum successorem contingere possit. Incidimus in tuas dotes, Vir Clarissime, teque ut excolendae ornandaeque huic professioni maxime idoneum omnium suffragiis elegimus. Mille florenorum huic professioni est annuum stipendium; domus itidem satis spatiosa tibi tuisque gratis concedetur. Porro huic muni adhaerent varia emolumenta, quae tum ex privatis collegiis et institutionibus, tum ex promotionibus percipere facillime poteris. Privilegia quoque et immunitates, quibus frui Professores consueverunt, aliquantulum compendii prioribus adiciunt. Haec forsitan pusilla nimis sunt, quam ut hominem, inter Orientis divitias quotidie degentem, possent allicere, neque etiam tam indigne de generosa tua mente sentimus. Verum opinio, quam de insigni tuo amore, quo studium hoc amplecteris, concepimus, spem nostram irritam esse non permittit: deinde moveberis forte patriae tuae desiderio, quo fere quaelibet etiam constantissima ingenia trahuntur. Si denique et hoc te fortunatum magis putaveris, amorem nostrum et benevolentiam tibi abunde et pollicemur et praestabimus. Vale. Lugduni Batavorum 21. Novembris 1678". (Erroneously the year was given as 1679).

³⁷ "Kladnotulen Burgersdijk", in P. C. MOLHUYZEN, *Bronnen tot de Geschiedenis der Leidsche Univ.*, Vol. III (1918), *Bijlagen* [Supplement], HERMANN's letter to C. and B., pp. 267*-268*.

Original Latin text: "Incredibili gaudio perfrusus sum, cum ex vestris literis, ipsi

to me, dated December [November!], 1678, that you not only have heard something about my name and work, but that you even think so much of my reputation, that you have not scorned generously to appoint me to the chair of Botany at the University in your town on the most favourable conditions. For this I certainly feel and express my great gratitude to you.

"I could never have thought of anything more agreeable or welcome to me than that I should serve the public interest and the honour of my fatherland according to the best of my ability.

"However, realizing that this weighty commitment should be undertaken only by men of proved learning and eloquence, I confess candidly that my gifts are scarcely equal to carrying out this honourable task. Yet I will not deny that I and my studies by candlelight, when many years ago, amongst the Muses of Europe, I gave my time to the pursuit of Natural History, have not been rejected by men most highly qualified in this branch. Moreover, for an unbroken period of eight years, which I have had the privilege of spending in this island, I have devoted nearly all the time to those same studies, from which followed substantial benefit to the common good. However, far from being conceited on this account, or *Philautos* [self-satisfied], I rather seriously regret that I have missed the opportunity of cultivating at the same time the art of elegant writing, by which the arts and sciences are suitably embellished, and by which studious minds are straightway led to the true recognition of the sciences.

"Nevertheless however, since I know that I was formerly of some value in

Kalendis Decembris Anno 1678 ad me datis intellexissem vos non solum de meo nomine et studiis inaudisse aliquid, sed et existimationi meae adeo favere, ut non designati sitis me ad professionem Botanicam Academiae vestrae urbis honestissimis conditionibus paramanter convocare. Hoc quidem nomine maximas vobis gratias et habeo et ago. Nihil enim gratius aut optatius animo meo concipere unquam potui, quam ut publicis usibus patriaeque honori pro capto industriae meae deservirem. Verum reputans mecum gravem hanc provinciam non nisi spectatae doctrinae et eloquentiae viris debere administrari, ingenue fatior meas dotes huic honorifico muneri ferendo vix esse pares. Equidem negare nequeo me measque lucubrationes, dum ante multos iam pridem annos inter Europaeas Musas rerum naturalium studio vacabam, viris etiam in hac arte exercitatissimis non fuisse improbatas; porro etiam per integrum octennium, quod hac in insula degere licuit, me pene totum iisdem laboribus desudasse, ex quibus deinceps non mediocre commodum cepit commune bonum. Tamen tantum abest, ut ideo mihi sim Suffenus, aut *Philautos*, ut potius serio ingemiscam, quod mihi defuerit copia excolendi simul elegantioris literaturae genus, quo artes et scientiae perpulchre expoluntur, docilesque mentes ad veram scientiarum cognitionem recte et ordine ducuntur. Nihilominus tamen cum me olim aliquid hoc in genere valuisse sciam, et detrimentum huius cessationis cura et industria mea sarciri posse putem, insuper etiam cuilibet ingenuae indoli concessum sit vires suas cum bona spei boni publici demerendi periclitari, Dei implorato numine cepi tandem consilium proxima occasione, quae Ianuarii mense sequentis anni instabit, ad vos transfretare, vobisque, Amplissimi Viri, libenter devovere quicquid in me est doctrinae et eruditionis, non desperans fore ut omnia mea coepa et cogitata, quae ad exornandam hancce professoriam spartam ex me proficisci poterunt, vergant in Dei gloriam, vestrum honorem, totius denique Universitatis decus et emolumentum. Ita vobis et Lycaeο vestro omnia feliciter et ex voto contingant. Salvete et valet. Datum Columbi, 23. Octobr. A^o. 1679.



Folio 3: *Leucadendron adscendens*, R. Br.

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this respect, and since I think that I am able to remedy the harm of this omission by careful industry, especially also since every one is allowed to try his strength with the firm expectation of serving the public interest, I have, after praying to God, at last decided to cross the sea at the earliest opportunity, which will be in January of next year, and freely to offer you, distinguished Sirs, whatever knowledge and wisdom may be in me, in the fervent hope that all the plans and thoughts, which I may bring to adorn the professional post, may turn to the glory of God, to your honour, and finally to the dignity and advantage of the whole University.

"Thus may everything turn out happily and according to your wish for you and your Academy. Farewell. Written at Colombo, 23rd October, 1679".

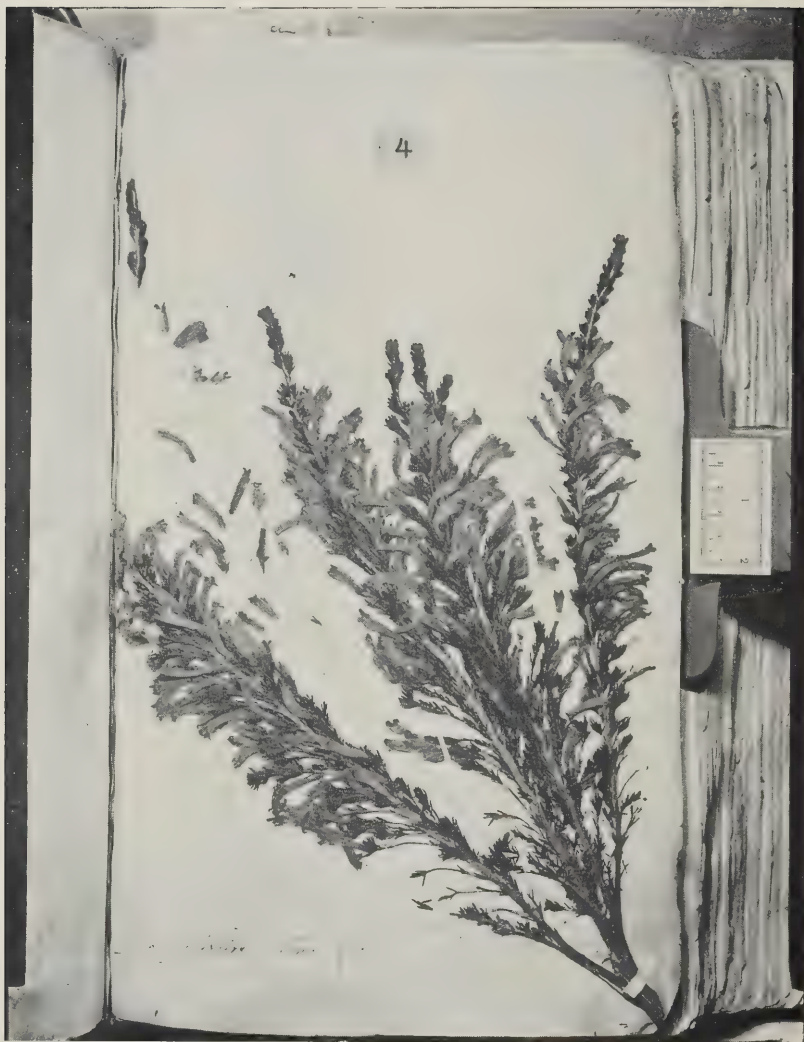
HERMANN's appointment as a professor followed on August 24, 1680, shortly after his return to Holland: "At the same session, the minutes of the Curators and Consuls were read, by which they appointed the most distinguished Paul Hermans, Doctor of Medicine, to be ordinary Professor of Medicine and Botany".³⁸ It was approved at the council of Curators that HERMANN be paid for the expenses of his long voyage the sum of 250 guilders. Doctor PETER HOTTON who in May 1679 had been appointed as a temporary Professor of Botany, during the time of HERMANN's absence, was paid tribute for the most capable and diligent way he had acquitted himself of his task.

About HERMANN's work as a professor, it is stated in the Syllabus of summer lectures in the Leyden University ("Batavian Academy") in 1681 that in the morning at 8 o'clock he will lecture on Botany in the Botanic Garden of the University.³⁹ The duties of HERMANN became more onerous in 1686, when he was appointed to teach practical medicine on an extra salary of 200 guilders.

HERMANN undoubtedly was the first botanist who gathered plants at the Cape, viz. in 1672, on his outward journey to Ceylon, and formed a herbarium of the specimens collected. As already mentioned, the Cape plants were incorporated in the fourth (and last) volume of his Ceylon herbarium, and it was on this herbarium that LINNAEUS based his *Flora Zeylanica*. This work does not use the binominal nomenclature, as it had not yet been introduced at that time, but the genera are named by LINNAEUS, as far as he could. Binominals

³⁸ "Acta Senatus" 1680, Aug. 24, published in P. C. MOLHUYZEN, *Bronnen tot de Geschiedenis der Leidsche Universiteit*, Vol. III (1918), p. 352. Original Latin text: "Eadem sessione lecta sunt acta Curatorum et Consulum, quibus Clariss. Virum Paulum Hermans, Med. Doctorum, renuntiant Medicinae ac Botanices Professorem ordinarium".

³⁹ "Kladnotulen Burgersdijk", published in P. C. MOLHUYZEN, *Bronnen tot de Geschiedenis der Leidsche Univ.*, Vol. III (1918), p. 268. Original Latin text: "Ordo Lectionum Aestivarum in Academia Batava Leidensi, Anno 1681. Mane. Hora octava. D. Paulus Hermann Botanicen in Horto Academico docebit".



Folio 4: *Erica curviflora*, L.
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of the Trustees.

were added in LINNAEUS' *Species Plantarum* (1753). A great number of the plants were named by HERMANN himself, and many are type specimens. The *Musaeum Zeylanicum*, edited by WILLIAM SHERARD from HERMANN's notes in 1717, is a catalogue of this collection.

HERMANN's collections as a whole have an interesting history. His widow, ANNA GEERTRUY, née STOMPHIUS, was, according to UFFENBACH,⁴⁰ decidedly not a business woman and did not take proper care of her husband's valuable collections (though she is on record as having shown an interest in plants by collecting the liverwort *Pellia calycina*, Nees (Hepaticae) near Tunbridge in England.⁴¹) HERMANN's *Museum Indicum*, estimated to be worth 12,000 guilders, was in a very dilapidated condition in 1711, when UFFENBACH saw it. The herbarium alone was valued at 3,000 guilders, but after it had been very badly spoilt, it was sold, in 1711, for 300 guilders to the king of Prussia. The herbarium later on came into the hands of AUGUST GÜNTHER, Apothecary Royal at Copenhagen, who, apparently not knowing its history, in 1745 sent it to LINNAEUS, who at once identified it as HERMANN's collection. GÜNTHER, to whom LINNAEUS returned it, gave it or sold it to Count ADAM GOTTLÖB MÖLTKE, after whose death it was bought, with his library, by Professor TRESCHOW of Copenhagen, who in 1793 sold it to Sir JOSEPH BANKS⁴² for £75. The herbarium was finally incorporated in the Sloane Herbarium, and forms now one of the most treasured possessions of the British Museum (Natural History).

As to HERMANN's Cape plants, they had found their way to England over eighty years before the purchase of the herbarium by BANKS. In June 1711, at the sale of HERMANN's herbarium (to the king of Prussia), the Cape specimens were bought by JAMES PETIVER (c. 1663–1718), a wealthy London apothecary, for Sir HANS SLOANE⁴³. These form Vol. 75 of the Sloane Her-

⁴⁰ ZACHARIAS CONRAD VON UFFENBACH, in his work *Merkwürdige Reisen durch Niedersachsen, Holland und England* (Ulm, 1754) [Noteworthy Journeys through Lower Saxony, Holland and England], 3 volumes, with copper plate engravings.

⁴¹ This *Pellia* specimen is in the Sloane Herbarium (H.S. 329, f. 60), labelled by PETIVER "Found abt Tunbridge by Madam Herman". It is not recorded when she visited England.

⁴² Sir JOSEPH BANKS (1743–1820), a wealthy man, who became president of the Royal Society, undertook botanical journeys to Newfoundland and Labrador, and made his name by accompanying Capt. JAMES COOK on his voyage round the world in the "Endeavour" (1768–1771). He was a joint founder of the Linnean Society of London, of which he was the president from the year of its foundation until his death.

⁴³ Sir HANS SLOANE (1660–1753) was a famous English physician, who also made his name as a naturalist. At the age of 24 he went to Jamaica as a physician in ordinary of the Duke of ALBEMARLE. The plants he collected there are in the first 8 volumes of his herbarium and formed the basis of his *Natural History of Jamaica*. His great influence and princely means enabled him to form the most extensive botanical collection of his time. The complete collection *naturalia*, including his enormous herbarium comprising no less

barium, which is in the British Museum (Natural History). This herbarium collection, entitled "Plants gathered by Dr. Herman at the Cape of Good hope in 1672", numbers 66 folios with an average of 3 or 4 specimens on each sheet. They are good specimens, many named by SOLANDER⁴⁴ and some described as new in his MSS.; a few have been at some time removed. The collection corresponds with, but contains many more specimens than the one listed by BARTHOLINUS, which was given by HERMANN to HEREMIAS STOLLE as mentioned before.

Photographs of a fine selection of four of the folios with HERMANN'S Cape plants are reproduced herewith, numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4. The mounted specimens are very well preserved and could be easily identified.

Folio 1 shows *Hermannia triphylla*, Cav. (Sterculiaceae) with to the left *Microlooma tenuifolia*, K. Schum. (Asclepiadaceae), a plentiful plant of the Western Cape of a twining habit, known as "Red Wax Creeper" or "Kannetjies", showing its very narrow leaves and a couple of small flowers. The specimen at the bottom of the sheet to the right of the *Hermannia* probably is a *Helichrysum* sp. (Compositae). Mounted on folio 2 are also two species of plants, viz. *Leonotis leonurus*, R. Br. (Labiateae), the "Minaret Flower" or "Wilde Dagga", and to the right of it *Anapalina burchellii*, N. E. Br. (Iridaceae), a name which replaces the one written on the sheet, viz. *Gladiolus lucidor*. The Proteaceae are represented on folio 3 by *Leucadendron adscendens*, R. Br., a common shrub on the Cape Peninsula: a label stuck on the sheet bears the name "2. Protea conifera, Linn.", in a flourishing handwriting, probably SOLANDER'S. The 2-leaved branch to the left is difficult to identify. The specimen on folio 4, labelled in the same handwriting "Erica tubiflora, Linn.", has been identified as *E. curviflora*, L.

than 333 large folio volumes, was acquired by the State after his death in 1753 for the amount of £20,000 and has been kept in the Natural History Department of the British Museum, South Kensington (London), since 1881. As a matter of fact the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) dates its actual foundation from the year of acquisition of SLOANE'S collections.

⁴⁴ DANIEL CARL SOLANDER, born at Pitea, Norrland, Sweden, in 1733, and died in London in 1782, was a favourite pupil of LINNAEUS. After having taken his doctor's degree at Uppsala, he settled in England in 1760, where he became an assistant at the British Museum in 1763. He accompanied BANKS on Capt. COOK'S first voyage round the world. In 1773 he was again attached to the staff of the British Museum, now as a curator of the Natural History Department.

(To be continued)